



December 1, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
473 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the co-founder and immediate-past chairman of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE), I wish to express my strong support for the nomination of Ms. Michelle K. Lee for the office of Under Secretary of Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Our organization addresses the needs and interests of business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate leaders of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage, and we cannot think of a more qualified and dedicated individual than Ms. Lee.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are often at the forefront in developing new products and services here in the U.S. Today there are more than 1.6 million businesses owned and operated by AAPIs in this country, fueling innovation, job creation and economic development. We need someone from the business sector who understands that America can only advance as a global economic power if it has someone with the knowledge, expertise and drive to advance our country's economic prowess. Ms. Lee demonstrates each of these characteristics and so much more.

Not long ago, Ms. Lee addressed business leaders from more than 30 corporations and 10 nonprofit associations. She emphasized the importance of education, competition and the need for business ingenuity to stimulate growth, economic opportunity and intellectual curiosity. Her experience in the private sector and her educational credentials from the

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University have instilled confidence from the small-business sector that she is the perfect person for this position.

We urge the Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination.

Thank you for your interest and anticipated support for Ms. Michelle Lee.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Imada', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Imada
Immediate-Past Chairman
Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship